



ABCD Online no. 6

April 2021

Foxtrot

Israel 2017 113mins Cert 15

Michael Feldman is a middle-aged architect married to Daphna and living in Tel Aviv. They are a creative couple, superficially in a stable successful relationship. Their lives are suddenly blown apart by the shocking news of the death of their son Jonathon, a soldier on active service. Using his skill as a visual artist to enhance the urgency of the story, director Samuel Maoz switches the developing action between two locations.

One is Jonathon's posting as a member of a four-man patrol tasked with operating a checkpoint barrier in harsh and forbidding territory, where they relieve their stress and boredom in inventive ways including dancing to loudly amplified music, including the foxtrot, which Jonathon performs as a bravura solo. The other part deals with his parents' response to the catastrophic news they have been given. Long held assumptions are torn apart and fresh developments bring further emotional trauma.

The two narratives are orchestrated by the use of superb cinematography combined with music, dance and striking visuals. The importance of the foxtrot dance, which Michael also enjoys, becomes clearer.

Controversial on its release in Israel, the film nevertheless speaks to cultures and people the world over - it is both specific and universal at the same time.

"It is a formally gorgeous piece of work, the kind of film that exudes confidence in structure and tone, and it contains some of the most striking and memorable images of the year. It is a film designed to move you with the depiction of senseless tragedy but also to spark that part of your thinking that only movie making can tap" Brian Tallerico, *rogerebert.com*

"Israeli director Maoz's tense, witty film, which won the grand jury prize at the Venice film festival in 2017 is designed like a graphic novel"
Peter Bradshaw, *The Guardian*

Leading Players

Lior Ashkenazi
Sara Adler
Yonaton Shirey
Shira Hass
Eden Gamliel
Karin Ugowski

Michael Feldman
Daphna Feldman
Jonathon
Alma
Maria
Michael's mother

Production Credits

Director Samuel Maoz
Producer Marc Baschet + 19 others
Screenplay Samuel Maoz
Cinematography Giora Bejach
Original Music Ophir Leibovitch, Omit Poznansky

Zoom discussion meeting to take place
Thursday April 29th from 7.30pm to 8.15pm

Link: <https://zoom.us/j/98379880572?pwd=dDk1b2Q3c01qaWhKMEROORE44NIBrdz09>

Meeting ID: 983 7988 0572

Passcode: foxtrot



ABCD Film Society Online

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<https://abfilms.org.uk>

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